

REMARKS

Applicant notes the Examiner's indication that Claims 7, 20, 29 and 36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Claim 1 has been rewritten to include the elements of Claim 7 as well as of Claim 3 from which Claim 7 depends, in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestion. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claim 1 and its remaining dependent Claims 2, 4-6, and 8-13 are now allowable.

It is also noted that the Examiner has stated the reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter as follows: "However none of these [referring to the prior art references cited in the Office Action] either singly or in combination suggest or render obvious the positive step of providing spiral grooves on the exterior of the injection needle and rotating said needle in opposing directions during insertion and extraction of the needle from the tobacco column.

Applicant has amended Claim 15 to include the elements of Claim 20 which the Examiner has indicated as allowable and which correspond to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter as quoted above. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claim 15 and its remaining dependent Claims 16-19 and 21-24 are now allowable.

Likewise, Claim 25 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter (indicated by the Examiner as quoted above) from Claim 29 also indicated as being allowable by the Examiner. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claim 25 and its remaining dependent Claims 26-28 and 30-32 are now allowable.

Finally, Claim 33 has been amended to include the elements of Claim 36 which the Examiner has indicated to be allowable, and which correspond to the subject matter indicated as being allowable by the Examiner as quoted above. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claim 33 and its remaining dependent Claims 34, 35 and 37-41 are now allowable.

Accordingly, in view of this Amendment and the remarks above, it is submitted that this Application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney if any further issues remain.

Respectfully submitted,

/Charles I. Sherman/

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